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Abstract of the Disclosure

A high performance distributed discovery system, leveraging the functionality of a high speed communications network, for the discovery of the network topology of a high speed data network. The system comprises a plurality of discovery engines on at least one, and preferably a plurality of data collection node computers that poll and register managed network objects with the resulting distributed record compilation forming a distributed network topology database that is selectively accessed by at least one performance monitoring server computer to provide for network management. A plurality of discovery engine instances are located on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit so as to provide for the parallel processing of the distributed network topology database.